

Message Text

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LUSAKA, JANUARY 26 -- ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE MEETING OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF 24, -*49-ARAB COOPERATION, THE FOLLOWING EDITORIALS WERE CARRIED BY ZAMBIA NEWSPAPERS:

THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL SAID:

QUOTE SINCE THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF THREATENING WORLD PEACE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, AFRICANS AND ARABS WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT COMMON STRATEGIES TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE ARABS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ISRAEL. AND ISRAEL HAS BEEN USING WESTERN WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY AMERICAN WEAPONS AND MONEY WITH WHICH ISRAEL HAS DEFEATED THE ARABS. EACH TIME THERE IS A WAR BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS, IT HAS NOT BEEN THE ISRAELIS THE ARABS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE ISRAELIS THE ARABS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,

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THE AFRICANS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING WHITES RACISM AND APARTHEID IN RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ONLY TWO YEARS AGO IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, MPLA AND FRELIMO SUCCEEDED TO KICK THE PORTUGUESE OUT WHEN THEY COULD NO LONGER STAND THE SUPERIOR WEAPONS FROM THE EASTERN COUNTRIES AGAINST THE WESTERN WEAPONS THE

PORTUGUESE USED.

RHODESIA, DESPITE ITS SMALL WHITE POPULATION, HAS BEEN ABLE TO CARRY THE WAR THIS FAR BECAUSE OF THE WESTERN WEAPONS RHODESIA HAS RECEIVED THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA.

RHODESIA WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING SO LONG RHODESIA WHITES ARE ASSURED THE CONTINUED FLOW OF WEAPONS FROM THE WEST THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA.

BUT THE WESTERN WEAPONS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED AGAINST THE ARABS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE AFRICANS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE BEEN PRODUCED IN FACTORIES IN THE WEST USING ARAB OIL.

DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, RICH ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE MADE HEAVY INVESTMENTS IN THE HOTELS AND CAR INDUSTRIES AND IN THE AIRLINES IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

THE REVENUE WHICH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE COLLECTED IN THE FORM OF TAXES FROM THESE INDUSTRIES HAS GONE TO BUILD NEW WEAPONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA AND WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO DEFEAT THE ARABS AND THE AFRICANS.

THE MEETING LIKE THE AFRO-ARAB COME-TOGETHER WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE IN LUSAKA THIS WEEK IS IMPORTANT IN THAT IT HAS BROUGHT CLOSE TOGETHER THE CENTRAL FIGURES FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND FROM AFRICA WHO HAVE BEEN ORGANISING THE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND RACISM AND APARTHEID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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THIS MEETING HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN THAT IT HAS HELPED TO GET THE ARABS TO GET AN IDEA OF THE TENSION THAT DOES EXIST IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THE LIBERATION WARS NOW GOING ON IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

THE AFRICANS HAVE ALSO BEEN ACCORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE LEADERS WHO ARE THE CENTRAL FIGURES IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS.

BUT THE MEETING MUST ALSO BRING HOME THIS SIMPLE TRUTH THAT AFRICA

LOOKS TO THE RICH ARAB COUNTRIES TO HELP DEVELOP DEVELOPING AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH INVESTMENTS EITHER THROUGH INDIVIDUAL VENTURES OR JOINT VENTURES WITH THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

ARAB INVESTMENTS IN DEVELOPED EUROPE HAVE ONLY THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF ARMING A PEOPLE WHO COULD VERY WELL USE THE STRONG

POSITION REALIED WITH ARAB MONEY AGAINST THE ARAB THEMSELVOM

IF THE REASON THE ARAB WORLD CAN GIVE NOT TO INVEST IN AFRICA IS THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT DEVELMPED, THN IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL TAKE LONG TO DEVELOP IF THEIR ARAB FRIENDS

SEND THEIR MONEY TO MAKE RICH ALREADY RICH COUNTRIES OF THE WEST. AFRO-ARAB TIES WILL ONLY BE STRENGHTENED WHEN ARABS REALISE THE AFRICAN CAUSE IS THEIR CAISE AND WHEN AFRICANS REALISE THE ARAB CAUSE IF (SIC) THEIR CAUSE AS INDEED THEY DID OVER ISRAEL. UNQUOTE. THE PARTY-CONTROLLED TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE SHAH OF IRAN IS AN ELOQUENT, IF SOMETIMES ACERBIC DEFENDER OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) WHO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING A FAIR PRICE FOR THEIR OIL IN THE WEST.

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IRAN LED THE GROUP OF ELEVEN OPC MEMBERS WHO EVENTUALLY INCREASED THEIR PRICES BY TEN PERCENT AT THE DECEMBER MEETING IN QATAR.

SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, WHO BETWEEN THEM PRODUCE ONE THIRD OF OPEC S TOTAL OIL EXPORTS, RAISED THEIR PRICES BY ONLY FIVE PER CENT.

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, THE SHAH SAID THAT IF THE INDUSTRIALISE WOOLD AND THE OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS COULD NOT RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES, "THE WORLD WILL BLOW UP".

ELABORATING, THE SHAH SAID HE MEANT WAR, PERHAPS BY THE TURN O THE CENTURY. A MAN FAMOUS FOR HYPERBOLE, THE SHAH S PROPHET-OF-DOOM PREDICTION SHOULD PROBABLY BE TRETED WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

BUT IT EMPHASISES HOW MUCH THE OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE COME TO DEPEND ON THEIR PRODUCT.

IRAN IS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE CURRENT AFRO-ARAB COMMITTE OF 24 MEETING IN LUSAKA. MOST OPEC MEMBERS, HOWEVER, ARE ARAB NATIONS AND ARE REPRESENTED AT THIS CRUCIAL MEETING.

IN RAISING THEIR PRICES, THE OPEC COUNTRIES HAVE HOPED TO OBTAIN MORE EXPORTS FROM THE WEST AND AT PRICES THEY CAN AFFORD. ALONG THE WAY, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

- AMONG THEM ARAB NATIONS WITHOUT OIL - HAVE BEEN INADVERTENTLY VICTIMISED.

IN AFRICA, THIS BECAME SO SERIOUS THAT ARAB AND AFRICAN LEADERS, THROUGH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE ORGANIZATION ON AFRICAN UNITY GOT TOGETHER TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ARRANGEMENT.

THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS AGREEING TO PREFERE-
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NTIAL PRICES FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, DEVELOPMENT FUNDS WERE SET ASIDE INSTEAD, FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE HARDEST-
HIT COUNTRIES.

ALTHOUGH THESE FUNDS HAVE HELPED, IT SEEMS TO BE THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF MOST OAU MEMBERS THAT A SUBSTANTIALLY MORE GENEROUS ARRANGEMENT NEEDS TO BE WORKED OUT.

SAUDI ARABIA, IN INCREASING ITS PRICE BY ONLY FIVE PER CENT, CITED ITS FEAR THAT THE COMMUNISTS MIGHT COME TO POWER IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE.

THERE ARE FAR MORE COMPELLING REASONS FOR GIVING MEANINGFUL AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE EUROPEANS MAY FACE THE "DANGER" OF COMMUNISM, THE AFRICANS FACE THE DANGER OF STARVATION.

FOR WITHOUT AID TO BALANCE THEIR DEPLETED BUDGETS, MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL BE UNABLE TO LAUNCH ANY VIABLE FOOD PROGRAMMES.

THE POLITICAL INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE AFRO-ARAB NATIONS HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED. LET US HOPE THAT ITS EXTENSION TO THE ECONOMIC SPHERE IS SIMILARLY RECOGNIZED AND EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENTED. UNQUOTE.

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